

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUWAIT 01209 071040Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 /081 W
-----071409Z 053874 /47

R 070845Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7432
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, XF, JO, FR, GE, AU, IS, UK, LE
SUBJECT: FAROUK KADDOUMI ON MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT AND PALESTINIAN NATIONAL COUNCIL.

REF: 76 KUWAIT 5912 (NOTAL)

1. THE PLO POLITICAL DEPARTMENT CHIEF, FAROUK KADDOUMI,
REPORTEDLY MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS IN AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW IN
LEBANON BY A REPORTER FROM KUWAIT DAILY AL WATAN (PRINTED MARCH 6):
A. GENEVA CONFERENCE: PLO POSITION. THE PLO PLACES LITTLE
FAITH IN THE GENEVA CONCEPT AND ESTIMATESTHAT WAR IS MORE LIKELY
IN 1977 THAN MIDDLE EAST SOLUTION. WHILE IT ACKNOWLEGES THAT
"ARAB" NATIONS AND OTHERS SUPPORT THE GENEVA IDEA, THE PLO
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PAGE 02 KUWAIT 01209 071040Z

IS WORKING THROUGH THE UN AND WITH EUROPEAN LEADERS TO
ACHIEVE ITS AIMS BY OTHER MEANS. THE PLO BELIEVES THAT THE USG
AND ISRAEL ARE USING THE GENEVA IDEA MERELY TO GAIN TIME TO BUILD
ADDITIONAL ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS IN OCCUPIED LANDS AND FURTHER
"VIOLATE PALESTINIAN RIGHTS." KADDOUMI REPORTEDLY TOLD UN
SECGEN WALDHEIM RECENTLY IN GENEVA THAT THE PLO WILL NOT ATTEND
A GENEVA CONFERENCE BECAUSE "WE REJECT UN RESOLUTION 242,"

BUT LATER IN INTERVIEW, KADDOUMI IS REPORTED SAYING THAT "WE INFORMED WALDHEIM ON THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS FOR PLO ATTENDANCE AT GENEVA: AN INVITATION TO THE PLO; PLACEMENT OF THE "PALESTINIAN ITEM" ON THE GENEVA AGENDA; AND "GUARANTEES OF AN INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN STATE." KADDOUMI ALSO OPINED THAT NO GENEVA CONFERENCE WOULD BE HELD, BECAUSE OF ISRAELI INFLEXIBILITY AND EVEN IF HELD IT "WILL HAVE NO POSITIVE RESULTS."

B. ROLES OF EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. THE FRG FONMIN CAME TO THE MIDDLE EAST RECENTLY TO "SERVE GERMAN INTERESTS... THE FRG IS FOLLOWING THE POLICY OF THE U.S." U.S. PRESSURE ON EEC COUNTRIES COVEYED BY VICE PRES MONDALE, HAS BEEN ESPECIALLY FELT BY THE FRG, FRANCE AND UK. ONE OUTCOME OF THIS PRESSURE WAS THE FAILURE OF THE RECENT EUROPEAN-ARAB DIALOGUE MEETING (IN TUNIS) TO ISSUE A STATEMENT FAVORABLE TO PALESTINIANS. KADDOUMI HAS ALSO DISCUSSED WITH AUSTRIAN CHANCELLOR KREISKY THE ATTITUDE OF "INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISM" TOWARD THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE AND MEETINGS HELD BETWEEN "PALESTINIANS AND JEWS" OF WHICH KREISKY HAD KNOWLEDGE. KADDOUMI ASSERTED THAT THE PALESTINIAN PARTICIPANTS REPRESENTED NEITHER FATAH NOR THE PLO, NOTHING THAT HE COULD SPEAK FOR BOTH GROUPS.

LASTLY, KADDOUMI SAID THE USSR IS A "SINCERE FRIEND" WITH WHOM THE PLO HAS SOME DIFFERENCES, WHICH "IS NATURAL."

C. PALESTINIAN-JORDANIAN TIES. WHILE THE PLO "INSISTS" ON A LINK WITH JORDAN, PALESTINIANS WILL ALSO INSIST ON RETAINING AN "INDEPENDENT GOVERNMENT" AND FOREIGN POLICY. REGARDING OTHER MATTERS, HOWEVER, SUCH AS "ELECTIONS" AND "POPULAR, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS", JOINT ARRANGEMENTS MIGHT BE FEASIBLE. ANY SUCH RELATIONSHIPS WOULD BE ARRIVED AT ONLY AFTER A PALESTINIAN STATE IS ESTABLISHED, AND ITS NATURE MIGHT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 KUWAIT 01209 071040Z

BE MERELY A "MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING" RATHER THAN A "CONFEDERATION." D. PALESTINIAN NATIONAL COUNCIL (CAIRO, MARCH 12).

THE COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE HELD AS SCHEDULED DESPITE "OBJECTIONS BY ONE FACTION OR ANOTHER." THE BASIC CHARTER WILL NOT BE AMENDED; "WE MAY NOT AT ANY COST" CHANGE THE 10 POINTS OF THE CHARTER WHICH GOVERN "PLO POLITICAL POLICY". IT WOULD BE A "NATURAL THING" HOWEVER IF THE COUNCIL WERE TO CHOOSE SOME NEW PLO PERSONALITIES AS LEADERS, WHICH SOME ARAB SIDES" DESIRE.

E. MILITARY OPERATIONS: KADDOUMI CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT "THE PALESTINIAN STRUGGLE SHOULD ESCALATE ITS MILITARY OPERATIONS

INSIDE OCCUPIED TERRITORY AND STEP UP THE POLITICAL STRUGGLE OF THE MASSES THERE".

2. COMMENT: SPATE OF HARD-LINE COMMENTS BY PLO PERSONALITIES PUBLISHED IN PAST FEW WEEKS SEEM DESIGNED TO COUNTER MODERATE TREND IN PLO APPROACH WHICH WAS EARLIER HERALDED BY KHALID AL HASSAN HERE (REFTEL) AND ENDORSED BY PLO ATTITUDE IN LEBANON AND BEGINNING OF POSSIBLE DIALOGUE WITH JORDAN. REASON FOR RETURN TO STANDARD

HARD LINE OBSCURE BUT MANY MAY BE RELATED TO (A) PROBLEM OF HOLDING
DESPERATE PLO ELEMENTS TOGETHER, (B) PARTIAL RECOVERY FROM BUFFETING
RECEIVED IN LEBANON, AND (C) DETERMINATION TO RESIST DOMINATION OF
PLO POLICY BY SYRIA AND EGYPT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PALESTINIANS, PRESS CONFERENCES, PEACE PLANS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977KUWAIT01209
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770077-0927
Format: TEL
From: KUWAIT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770387/aaaacyiy.tel
Line Count: 121
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7a5581bc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 KUWAIT 5912
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3188798
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FAROUK KADDOUMI ON MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT AND PALESTINIAN NATIONAL COUNCIL.
TAGS: PFOR, XF, JO, FR, GC, AU, IS, UK, LE, PLO, (KADDOUMI, FAROUK)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7a5581bc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009